
HOUSE BILL No. 1230

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 9-13-2-197.5; IC 9-18-34-1; IC 9-21-5-1.5; IC 36-8-12-11.

Synopsis: Speed limits for volunteer firefighter vehicles. Permits a volunteer firefighter to exceed the speed limit when responding to an emergency call or a fire alarm.

Effective: July 1, 2003.

Duncan

January 8, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.

C
o
p
y



First Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2003)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2002 Regular or Special Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1230

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning motor vehicles.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 9-13-2-197.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: **Sec. 197.5. "Volunteer firefighter" has**
4 **the meaning set forth in IC 36-8-12-2.**
- 5 SECTION 2. IC 9-18-34-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
6 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 1. As used in this
7 chapter, "Indiana firefighter" means a person who is:
8 (1) a full-time, salaried firefighter; or
9 (2) a volunteer firefighter. ~~(as defined in IC 36-8-12-2).~~
- 10 SECTION 3. IC 9-21-5-1.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
11 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
12 1, 2003]: **Sec. 1.5. (a) This section applies to a volunteer firefighter**
13 **when:**
14 (1) **responding to an emergency call; or**
15 (2) **responding to, but not upon returning from, a fire alarm.**
16 **(b) A volunteer firefighter may exceed the maximum speed**
17 **limits if:**



C
o
p
y

(1) the volunteer firefighter is using a blue light on the vehicle in the manner required by IC 36-8-12-11; and

(2) the volunteer firefighter does not endanger life or property.

(c) This section does not do the following:

(1) Relieve the volunteer firefighter from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

(2) Protect the volunteer firefighter from the consequences of the reckless disregard for the safety of others.

SECTION 4. IC 36-8-12-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.153-2002, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 11. (a) Members of volunteer fire departments may display blue lights on their privately owned vehicles while en route to scenes of emergencies or to the fire station in the line of duty subject to the following conditions:

(1) A light must have a light source of at least thirty-five (35) watts.

(2) All lights must be placed on the:

(A) top of the vehicle;

(B) dashboard inside a vehicle, shielded to prevent distracting the driver; or

(C) front of the vehicle upon the bumper or at bumper level.

(3) No more than four (4) blue light assemblies may be displayed on one (1) vehicle, and each blue light assembly must be of the flashing or revolving type.

(4) A blue light assembly may contain multiple bulbs.

(5) A blue light may not be a part of the regular head lamps displayed on the vehicles. Alternately flashing head lamps may be used as a supplemental warning device. Strobe lights or flashers may be installed into the light fixtures on the vehicle other than the alternating head lamps. The strobe lights or flashers may be either white or blue, with the exception of red to the rear.

(b) In order for a volunteer firefighter to display a blue light on a vehicle, the volunteer firefighter must secure a written permit from the chief of the volunteer fire department to use the blue light and must carry the permit at all times when the blue light is displayed.

(c) A person who is not a member of a volunteer fire department may not display an illuminated blue light on a vehicle.

(d) A permittee of the owner of a vehicle lawfully equipped with a blue light may operate the vehicle only if the blue light is not illuminated.

(e) A person who violates subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d) commits a

C
o
p
y



1 Class C infraction. If the violator is a member of a volunteer fire
2 department, the chief of the department shall discipline the violator
3 under fire department rules and regulations.

4 (f) This section does not grant a vehicle displaying blue lights the
5 right-of-way under IC 9-21-8-35 or exemption from traffic rules under
6 IC 9-21-1-8.

7 (g) A driver of a vehicle displaying a blue light shall obey all traffic
8 rules **but may exceed speed limits when operating the vehicle in the**
9 **manner required by IC 9-21-5-1.5.**

10 ~~(g)~~ (h) This section shall not be construed to include a vehicle
11 displaying a blue light and driven by a member of a volunteer fire
12 department as an authorized emergency vehicle (as defined in
13 IC 9-13-2-6).

C
o
p
y

